

## Chittenden Locks locks fire boats through immediately



Contact: Patricia Graesser (206) 764-3760  
May 20, 2002

SEATTLE—During the recent fires on Lake Union and at the Seattle Yacht Club, the Chittenden Locks acted immediately to lock through the fireboat CHIEF SEATTLE as quickly as gravity allows. The Army Corps of Engineers operates the Chittenden Locks and Dam in Ballard.

In each case, locking through was accomplished in less than 10 minutes—the time it takes to bring the boat in, tie it up, close the gates, raise the water level, open the gates and untie the vessel for departure into the fresh water.

On May 17 the Lock tower got the call from the fireboat at 9:55 p.m. The vessel entered the lock at 10:05 p.m. and departed at 10:15.

During January's Yacht Club fire, the fireboat called for a locking at 7:05 p.m., entered the small lock at 7:10, and officially exited at 7:20.